

STAT

Page Denied

STAT

CENTRALIZED ALLOCATION OF LABOR
IN NORTHEAST CHINA, 1949-1953

Hsin-hua Yueh-pao
Peiping, Jan. 1954

[This report summarizes an article reviewing activities in distribution and allocation of labor in the Northeast, issued by the Labor Bureau of the Northeast Administration Committee and originally published in Lao-tung, No 11, 1953.]

Spurred on by the restoration and development of national construction, definite advances have been made in labor allocation work in the Northeast Administrative Area over the past 4 years. From 1949 to May 1953, more than 760,000 unemployed persons, including surplus labor of all types from both rural and urban areas, construction workers, etc., have been placed in jobs through labor administration offices of all levels. This number does not include workers recruited and employed by private enterprises.

From 1949 to early 1950, during the restoration of factories and mines, labor administration offices had established placement offices in only a few large cities, such as Mukden, Harbin, An-shan, and Ch'i-ch'i-ha-erh. These offices organized the return of workers to factories and mines and carried out relief work among the unemployed whose living conditions were miserable.

From 1950 to 1951, with the virtual conclusion of land reform in the Northeast, workers who had gone back to their villages to share in land division, returned to the cities, most of them looking for work. To facilitate supplying labor to industry, and to foster the rapid expansion of production, placement committees were separately organized in the Northeast Area and in provincial capitals. The method followed by the committee was defined in the "Registration and Placement of Technical Workers," a regulation promulgated by the Ministry of Labor of the Central People's Government and used before liberation in hiring workers for distant factories.

In 1952, there was a reorganization of labor allocation work in order to supply the specialized demands of basic construction. Agencies were established in all provinces and cities according to labor distribution plans devised by the Northeast Planning Commission and employment of labor through centralized labor allocation was begun. In 1953, the government set up centralized labor administration sections for distribution and allocation of labor.

This progress in labor allocation work in the Northeast had the following important results:

1. Heavy industry was assured of the labor force it required, and the labor problems of factories and mines were solved. According to incomplete statistics, heavy industrial construction and national construction projects absorbed 61 percent of the workers recruited. In An-shan during a period of 2 years and 5 months all workers were allotted to the An-shan Iron and Steel Company except for 4 percent who were placed in local state-operated enterprises. During the second quarter of this year more than 800 specialists were withdrawn from local state-operated and privately operated enterprises and were placed in national defense and heavy industrial construction. Thus, through labor allocation, vital basic and heavy industrial production is guaranteed a supply of all types of the necessary labor, and economic restoration and development are accelerated.

STAT

2. Through labor allocation offices, workers in basic construction units were transferred and borrowed. This procedure reduced wasted time caused by workers made idle through the insufficient supply of material and poor planning, which had been a problem for several years, and it also resulted in actual financial savings. Skilled workers with no work to do in their own plant were sent to work elsewhere temporarily. According to incomplete statistics of June 1953, in An-shan, Liaotung, and in three other cities, 3,080 workers were shifted by labor administration offices under this program. It is calculated that, had the workers not been shifted, but remained idle 30 or more days, 1,848,000,000 yuan would have been wasted. In the Northeast Building Construction and Engineering Bureau, through labor allocation work, the wasting of 359,607 workdays and more than 7,190,000,000 yuan in wages was prevented.

3. The ideological awareness of the cadres was raised, and workers realizing the importance of labor allocation work, complied with the regulations of the system.

4. Labor allocation agencies were established and strengthened, and special work cadres were prepared to supply the demand for labor. Cities of all provinces in the Northeast, excluding Jehol, set up labor employment offices. In Liaotung and Liaosi, labor employment offices were also established in important hsien. There were special labor employment staff members in all hsien of Kirin, and in hsien subdivisions in Sungkiang, and in the city of Mukden. There were altogether 38 special labor force control agencies in the entire area, excluding agencies of the administrative area level, and 464 labor allocation cadres including persons not regularly assigned to this work.

There are still many shortcomings in labor allocation work:

Labor requirements and allocation plans are not coordinated, labor allocation offices are failing to supply industry with the proper type of workers, and there are often delays in allocation of workers. In the second period of allotting construction workers this year, only 22 percent of the plans were completed.

Practical production requirements are often disregarded by labor administration which hinders the development of labor allocation as well as the utilization of the unemployed.

There is a need for more propaganda, since private recruitment of labor continues. There were more than 200 instances of enterprises recruiting labor on their own initiative in Mukden, the Port Arthur-Dairen area, in Pen-ch'i, etc.

In conclusion, there are certain general points to be drawn from this review of labor allocation. It is necessary to have a plan for labor distribution in order to guarantee success in basic construction and production. The party should be in the vanguard of this movement and must lead the masses by educating them in the task of this broad work. Conservative ideas and subjectivism must be overcome, and the great body of unskilled available labor must not be overlooked in the present need for skilled workers.

- E N D -

STAT